

**IS 15968 : 2013**  
[Superseding IS 1534 (Part 1) : 1977]

भारतीय मानक  
प्रतिदीप्त नलिकाकार लैम्प के लिए  
ब्लास्ट — कार्यकारिता अपेक्षाएँ

*Indian Standard*

**BALLASTS FOR TUBULAR FLUORESCENT  
LAMPS — PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

ICS 29.140.30

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**BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS**  
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May 2013

Price Group 7

## FOREWORD

This Indian Standard was adopted by the Bureau of Indian Standards, after the draft finalized by the Electric Lamps and Their Auxiliaries Sectional Committee had been approved by the Electrotechnical Division Council.

This standard covers performance requirements for ballasts for tubular fluorescent lamps. It should be read in conjunction with IS 15885 (Part 2/Sec 8) : 2010 'Safety of lamp controlgear: Part 2 Particular requirements, Section 8 Ballasts for fluorescent lamps', with which all ballasts covered by the present standard should comply.

Unless otherwise stated on the lamp data sheet mentioned in IS 2418 (Part 2) : 1977 'Tubular fluorescent lamps for general lighting service: Part 2 Standard lamp data sheets (*first revision*)' and IS 15687 (Part 2) : 2010 'Single capped fluorescent lamps: Part 2 Performance requirements' it may be expected that ballasts which comply with this standard, when associated with lamps complying with IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) and where appropriate, operated with a starter complying with IS 2215 : 2006 'Starters for fluorescent lamps or starting devices' complying with IS 12449 (Part 2) : 1988 'Starting devices (other than glow starters): Part 2 Performance requirements', will ensure satisfactory starting of the lamps at an air temperature immediately around the lamps between 10°C and 35°C and for voltages between 92 percent and 106 percent of rated supply voltage, and also proper operation between 10°C and 50°C at rated supply voltage.

The compatibility of lamps and ballasts is evaluated with the use of special inductive ballasts called reference ballasts having particular characteristics which are stable and reproducible. These ballasts are used when testing commercial ballasts and when selecting reference lamps. Moreover, the testing of ballasts presents particular difficulties, which require a proper definition of testing methods. Such tests will generally be made with reference lamps and, in particular, by comparing the results obtained when such lamps are operated on reference ballast with the results obtained when the same lamps are operated on the ballast being tested.

NOTE — Requirements are also included for all those features of reference ballast construction and performance which are considered necessary to ensure accurate and reproducible results when testing ballasts, particularly with regard to the selection of reference lamps.

For checking the lamp power and current of lamps operated without a starter, this standard specifies a measurement in a reference ballast circuit that makes no provision for separate power sources to heat the cathodes during lamp operation. Although the influence on the ballast specification is small, it has nevertheless been deemed useful for some pre-heated low-voltage cathode lamps, operated without a starter, to include provision for the following two alternative methods of measurement of lamp power and current:

- a) Measurement of lamp power and current without additional cathode heating; and
- b) Measurement of lamp power and current with additional cathode heating.

The test method to be adopted for appraisal should be stated by the manufacturer.

Two alternative circuits are specified for the measurement of impedance at audio frequencies. The less complex circuit could be used when there is no doubt about the inductive character of the impedance. If there is any doubt, the other circuit should be used.

The safety and performance requirement of ballast for fluorescent lamps were earlier covered in IS 1534 (Part 1) : 1977 'Ballasts for fluorescent lamps: Part 1 For switch start circuits'. With a view to align Indian Standards in line with International Standards (IEC), it has been decided to formulate separate standards on safety and performance requirements.

This standard unlike IS 1534 (Part 1) covers only the performance requirements of ballasts. Following additional tests have been incorporated in this standard which was not specified in IS 1534 (Part 1):

- a) Maximum current in any lead to a cathode;

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## *Indian Standard*

# BALLASTS FOR TUBULAR FLUORESCENT LAMPS — PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

### 1 SCOPE

This standard specifies performance requirements for ballasts, excluding resistance types, for use on ac supplies up to 1 000 V at 50 Hz, associated with tubular fluorescent lamps with pre-heated cathodes operated with or without a starter or starting device and having rated wattages, dimensions and characteristics as specified in IS 2418 (Part 2) : 1977 ‘Tubular fluorescent lamps for general lighting service: Part 2 Standard lamp data sheets (*first revision*)’ and IS 15687 (Part 2) : 2010 ‘Single capped fluorescent lamps: Part 2 Performance requirements’. It applies to complete ballasts and their component parts such as resistors, transformers and capacitors.

The ac supplied electronic ballasts for tubular fluorescent lamps for high frequency operation specified in IS 15885 (Part 2/Sec 3) : 2010 ‘Safety of lamp controlgear: Part 2 Particular requirements, Section 3 ac supplied electronic ballasts for fluorescent lamps’ are excluded from the scope of this standard.

### 2 REFERENCES

The following Indian Standards are necessary adjuncts to this standard:

<i>IS No.</i>	<i>Title</i>
2418	Tubular fluorescent lamps for general lighting service:
(Part 1) : 1977	Requirements and tests ( <i>first revision</i> )
(Part 2) : 1977	Standard lamp data sheets ( <i>first revision</i> )
2500 (Part 1) : 2000	Sampling inspection procedures: Part 1 Attribute sampling plans indexed by acceptable quality level (AQL) for lot- by- lot inspection ( <i>third revision</i> )
15687 (Part 2) : 2010	Single capped fluorescent lamps: Part 2 Performance requirements
15885	Safety of lamp Controlgear:
(Part 1) : 2010	General requirements
(Part 2/Sec 3) : 2010	Particular requirements, Section 3 ac supplied electronic ballasts for fluorescent lamps
(Part 2/Sec 8) : 2010	Particular requirements, Section 8 Ballast for fluorescent lamps

### 3 TERMINOLOGY

For the purpose of this standard, in addition to the definition given in IS 15885 (Part 2) and the following shall apply.

**3.1 (Peak) Lead Circuit Ballast** — Ballast having a leading lamp current with respect to the line voltage as a result of a capacitor which is connected in series with the lamp

### 4 GENERAL NOTES ON TESTS

**4.1** Tests according to this specification are type tests. It may be expected with the tolerances given in the standard that products manufactured in accordance with the type test sample shall comply with the standard for the majority of the production.

Due to the production spread, it is inevitable, that there may sometimes be ballasts outside the specified tolerances.

For guidance of sampling plans and procedures for inspection by attributes [*see* IS 2500 (Part 1)].

NOTE — The requirements and tolerances permitted by this standard are based on testing of a type test sample submitted by the manufacturer for that purpose. In principle this type test sample should consist of units having characteristics typical of the manufacturer’s production and be as close to the production centre point values as possible.

**4.2** The tests shall be carried out in the order of the clauses, unless otherwise specified.

**4.3** One specimen shall be submitted to all tests.

**4.4** In general all tests are made on each type of ballast or, where a range of similar ballasts is involved, for each rated wattage in the range or on a representative selection from the range as agreed with the manufacturer.

**4.5** The tests shall be made under the conditions specified in Annex A.

**4.6** All ballasts specified in this standard shall comply with the requirements of IS 15885 (Part 2/Sec 8).

**4.7** Attention is drawn to lamp performance standards which contain information for ballast design; this should be followed for proper lamp operation; however, this standard does not require the testing of lamp performance as part of the type test approval for ballasts.

## 5 MARKING

The following information shall be included either on the ballast or be made available in the manufacturer's catalogue or the like.

### 5.1 Circuit Power-Factor, for Example $\lambda$ 0.85

If the power-factor is less than 0.85 leading, it shall be followed by the letter C, for example  $\lambda$  0.80 C.

For ballasts intended for the additional application of operated lamps in series, the appropriate power-factors shall be included.

The following additional marking shall be included, if appropriate.

**5.2** The symbol  $\mathcal{Z}$  which indicates that the ballast is designed to comply with the conditions for audio-frequency impedance (*see* 14).

### 5.3 BIS Certification Marking

**5.3.1** The ballast may also be marked with the Standard Mark. The use of the Standard Mark is governed by the provisions of *Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986* and the Rules and Regulations made thereunder. The details of conditions under which the license for the use of the Standard Mark may be granted to manufacturers or producers may be obtained from the Bureau of Indian Standards.

## 6 VOLTAGE AT TERMINATIONS OF LAMP OR STARTER (IF ANY)

The test shall be carried out in accordance with the measuring conditions of A-4.

### 6.1 Lamps Operated with a Starter

A ballast, when operated at any voltage between 92 percent and 106 percent of its rated voltage, shall provide the following open-circuit voltages:

- a) At terminations of the starter, an rms voltage of at least the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet; and
- b) At lamp terminations, a peak voltage (excluding the surge of the starter) not exceeding the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

When ballasts are designed to operate lamps in parallel circuits, the relevant requirements shall be met for each separate lamp, even in the most adverse load conditions.

### 6.2 Lamps Operated Without a Starter

A ballast, when operated at any voltage between

92 percent and 106 percent of its rated voltage, shall provide an open-circuit voltage at lamp terminations such that,

- a) its rms value is at least the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet;
- b) its peak value does not exceed the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet; and
- c) its crest factor (ratio of peak value to rms value) of open circuit voltage does not exceed the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

When ballasts are designed to operate lamps in parallel circuits, the relevant requirements shall be met for each separate lamp, even in the most adverse load conditions.

#### NOTES

**1** For the checking of open-circuit voltage at lamp terminations, the maximum value of the four possible measurements between lamp terminals is taken.

**2** For ballasts with a step-up transformer it is likely that a capacitor is used in series to form lead circuit or peak lead circuit ballasts. A lead circuit ballast typically has an open circuit voltage crest factor of 1.55 to 2.0 and in a peak lead ballast it is 2.0 to 2.3.

### 6.3 Lamps Operated Without a Starter

A ballast, when operated at any voltage between 90 percent and 110 percent of its rated voltage, shall provide an open-circuit voltage at lamp terminations such that,

- a) its rms value is not less than the minimum and not greater than the maximum values given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet; and
- b) its peak value to starting aid is at least the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet;
- c) its crest factor (ratio of peak value to rms value) of open circuit voltage across lamp and to starting aid does not exceed the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

When ballasts are designed to operate lamps in parallel circuits, the relevant requirements shall be met for each separate lamp, even in the most adverse load conditions.

Starting aid capacitor sizes are specified not less than the minimum and not greater than the maximum on the relevant lamp data sheet. In two-lamp series ballasts, the capacitor shall shunt the lamp furthest from ground potential. For three-lamp series ballasts, a capacitor shall shunt the two lamps furthest from ground

potential. A second capacitor of the same size shall shunt the lamp furthest from ground. If the peak voltage to ground exceeds the minimum by 30 percent the second capacitor may shunt either of the two shunted lamps.

#### NOTES

1 For the checking of open-circuit voltage at lamp terminations, the maximum value of the four possible measurements between lamp terminals is taken.

2 For ballasts with a step-up transformer it is likely that a capacitor is used in series to form lead circuit or peak lead circuit ballasts. A lead circuit ballast typically has an open circuit voltage crest factor of 1.55 to 2.0 and in a peak lead circuit ballast it is 2.0 to 2.3.

### 6.4 Maximum (rms) Voltage Across Starter Terminals with Lamp Operating

When a ballast is operating with a reference lamp and is connected to any voltage between 92 percent and 106 percent of the rated supply voltage at rated frequency, the voltage across the starter terminations shall not exceed the maximum value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

These limits apply both when the lamp is first ignited and after it has warmed up.

When the ballasts are designed to operate lamps in parallel circuits, the relevant requirements shall be met for each separate lamp, under the most adverse load conditions.

### 6.5 Lamps with Integral Means of Starting

A ballast, when operated at any voltage between 92 percent and 106 percent of its rated voltage, shall provide an open-circuit voltage at lamp terminations such that,

- a) its rms value is at least the value given in IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet, and
- b) its peak value does not exceed that value given in IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

## 7 PRE-HEATING CONDITIONS

The test shall be carried out in accordance with the measuring conditions of **A-5**.

Consequently, and in order to satisfy the requirements specified on the relevant lamp data sheets in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2), depending on the tolerances of the series choke component of the ballast either the capacitor tolerances should be narrow or the series connected inductive reactance and capacitor should be selected so that unfavourable tolerances do not coincide.

NOTE — A marked capacitor tolerance of 10 percent, which is typical for shunt connected capacitors, is unsuitable for series

capacitors due to the summation of capacitor and ballast tolerances which, when unfavourable tolerances coincide, may lead to poor lamp performance.

### 7.1 Lamps Operated with (Integral) Starter

A ballast, when operated at any voltage between 92 percent and 106 percent of its rated supply voltage and at rated frequency, shall provide a pre-heating current as specified on the relevant lamp data sheet in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2).

For lamps where such data are not given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2), the pre-heating current shall be as specified by the lamp manufacturer.

### 7.2 Lamps Operated Without Starter

With an objective dummy load resistor of the value specified in the relevant lamp data sheet in IS 2418 (Part 2) substituted for each lamp cathode, and with the ballast under test operated at any voltage between 92 percent and 106 percent of its rated voltage, the ballast shall present a voltage across each dummy load resistor not less than the minimum and not greater than the maximum specified in the relevant lamp data sheet.

For those ballasts which are intended for use with high resistance cathode lamps and which present a voltage across each dummy load resistor which exceeds the maximum specified in the relevant lamp data sheet, the following additional test procedure shall apply.

The objective dummy load resistors shall be replaced by resistors with values derived from the following equation:

$$R = \frac{11.0}{2.1 \times I_n} \Omega$$

where  $I_n$  is the nominal running current of the lamp specified in the relevant lamp data sheet.

With the ballast under test operated at any voltage between 92 percent and 106 percent of its rated supply voltage the current passed by each resistor shall not exceed 2.1 times the nominal running current of the lamp.

### 7.3 Lamps Operated Without Starter

With a substitution resistor of the value specified in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet substituted for each lamp cathode, and with the ballast under test operated at rated voltage, the ballast shall present a pre-heat cathode voltage across the substitution resistor not less than the minimum and not greater than the maximum specified on the relevant lamp data sheet. Where one winding operates two cathodes in parallel, the substitution value should be half the given value. In addition during operation the ballast under test operated at rated voltage, shall operate the lamp cathodes at an operating

cathode voltage not less than the minimum and not greater than the maximum specified on the relevant lamp data sheet.

## 8 LAMP POWER AND CURRENT

The test shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of A-6.

### 8.1 Lamps Operated with (Integral) Starter

Unless otherwise specified on the relevant lamp data sheet, the ballast shall limit the power and current of a reference lamp to not less than 92.5 percent for the power and not more than 115 percent for the current of the corresponding values delivered to the same lamp when operated with reference ballast. Both the reference ballast and the ballast under test shall have the same rated frequency and each shall be operated at its rated voltage.

For ballasts intended for the additional application of operating lamps in series, each lamp not exceeding 20 W rating, the limits at rated voltage are widened by an additional 5 percent, that is, 87.5 percent for power and 120 percent for current at rated voltage instead of 92.5 percent and 115 percent respectively. The reference ballast data used for this test shall be the sum of the individual lamp powers.

NOTE — A summary of ballasts suitable for series operation of two fluorescent lamps and which do not need further testing, is given in Annex B.

### 8.2 Lamps Operated Without Starter

The ballast shall limit the arc current delivered to the reference lamp to a value not exceeding 115 percent of that delivered to the same lamp when it is operated with a reference ballast.

The power supplied to the lamp shall be such that the luminous flux from a reference lamp shall be not less than 90 percent of the luminous flux from the same reference lamp when operated on a reference ballast in a circuit either with or without separate cathode heating, as may be required by the measurement method being used (*see* Annex A).

For those lamps where both methods of measurement of electrical and luminous characteristics are specified on the relevant lamp data sheet of IS 2418 (Part 2), the manufacturer shall state the method to be used.

For these tests, the reference ballast shall have the same rated frequency as the ballast under test and each of them shall be operated at its rated voltage.

## 9 CIRCUIT POWER-FACTOR

The measured circuit power-factor shall not differ from the marked value by more than 0.05 when the ballast is

operated with one or more reference lamps and the whole combination is supplied at its rated voltage and frequency. In cases where a minimum value of power-factor is required for high power-factor ballast, it shall be 0.85 measured under the conditions stated above. For these high power-factor ballasts, the measured value shall in no case be less than 0.85.

## 10 SUPPLY CURRENT

At rated voltage, the supply current to the ballast shall not differ by more than 10 percent from the value marked on the ballast when the latter is operated with a reference lamp.

## 11 MAXIMUM CURRENT IN ANY LEAD TO A CATHODE

This requirement applies only to ballasts for lamps operated without starter, when tested in accordance with the requirements of A-7.

In normal operation and at a supply voltage of 106 percent of the rated value, the current flowing in any one of the cathode terminations shall not exceed the value given on the relevant lamp data sheet of IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2).

## 12 CURRENT WAVEFORM

### 12.1 Lamp Operating Current Waveform

The test shall be carried out in accordance with the requirements of A-8.

The ballast shall be operated at its rated voltage with a reference lamp or lamps. After lamp stabilisation, the waveform of the lamp operating current shall comply with the following conditions.

- a) Successive half-cycles shall present similar forms on an oscilloscope and their peak values shall be equal to within 5 percent.  
If measurement with the oscilloscope leaves any doubt, the requirement shall be deemed as met, if any harmonic component does not exceed 2.5 percent of the fundamental current.
- b) The maximum ratio of peak value to rms value shall not exceed 1.7.

## 13 MAGNETIC SCREENING

The ballast shall be effectively screened against the influence of adjacent ferromagnetic materials.

Compliance is checked by the following test.

The ballast shall be operated at rated voltage with an appropriate lamp. After stabilization, a steel plate of 1 mm thick and of length and breadth greater than those of the ballast under test shall be successively placed in

direct contact with the bottom plate of the ballast and at a distance of 1 mm from each face of the latter.

During this operation, the lamp current shall be measured and shall not change by more than 2 percent due to the presence of the steel plate.

#### 14 IMPEDANCE AT AUDIO-FREQUENCIES

Ballasts marked with the audio-frequency symbol shall be tested using one of the circuits shown in **A-9**.

For every signal frequency between 400 Hz and 2 000 Hz, the impedance of the ballast when operated with a reference lamp supplied at its rated voltage and frequency shall be inductive in characteristic. Its impedance, in ohms, shall be at least equal to the resistance of the resistor, which would dissipate the same power as the lamp/ballast combination when operated at its rated voltage and frequency.

The ballast impedance is measured with a signal voltage equal to 3.5 percent of the rated supply voltage of the ballast.

Between 250 Hz and 400 Hz, the impedance shall be at least equal to half the minimum value required for frequencies between 400 Hz and 2 000 Hz.

NOTE — Radio interference suppressers consisting of capacitors of less than 0.2  $\mu\text{F}$  (total value) which may be incorporated in the ballast may be disconnected for this test.

#### 15 TEST FOR BALLAST LOSSES

**15.1** The following method shall be used for the determination of the electrical power consumed by ballast (ballast losses) in switch start circuits. The test shall be carried out by the following method:

- Stabilize a reference lamp with ballast for 15 min at  $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ ;
- After stabilization period, switchover to test ballast; and

- Immediately measure (within 30 s) input power, power to lamp and current.

The ballast loss shall be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Ballast losses} = (W_1 - W_L) - I^2 R_1 + I_R^2 R_1$$

where

$W_1$  = input power;

$W_L$  = power to lamp;

$I$  = running current measured within 30 s of switching on the test ballast in the circuit;

$I_R$  = nominal running current for lamps [see IS 2418 (Part 2)]; and

$R_1$  = cold resistance at  $25 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$ .

The wattmeter used for the measurement shall be of unity power factor and shall be able to measure 0.2 W or better.

NOTE — This method of determination of ballast loss approximates the difference between total input power and lamp power when the ballast is operating at normal lamp current. It is considered that this method of measurement provided repeatable results with acceptable accuracy.

**15.2** The maximum limits for ballast losses shall not exceed the following:

<i>Ballast Wattage</i>	<i>Maximum Permissible Loss</i>
W	W
20	9
40	9
65	12
80	16

NOTE — The above limits are the maximum permissible limits. The manufacturer may however, declare a lower limit for his ballasts. In such a case the loss in ballast shall not exceed the declared value by more than 10 percent.

## ANNEX A

(Clauses 4.5, 6, 7, 8, 8.2, 11, 12.1 and 14)

### TESTS

#### A-1 GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR TESTS

**A-1.1** The general requirements of Annex H of IS 15885 (Part 1) apply but, for certain tests, for example checking the requirements of **A-8**, considerably greater purity of waveform of the supply is necessary, particularly in cases where capacitors are connected directly or indirectly in parallel with the

supply. Special arrangements for correction of supply waveform may then be necessary.

#### A-1.2 Magnetic Effects

Unless otherwise specified, no magnetic object shall be allowed within 25 mm of any face of the reference ballast or the ballast under test.

**A-1.3 Mounting and Connections of Reference Lamps**

- a) *Mounting* — In order to ensure that the electrical characteristics of the reference lamps are consistent, they shall be mounted as indicated on the relevant lamp data sheet. Where no mounting instructions are given on the relevant lamp data sheet, lamps shall be mounted horizontally.  
It is recommended that lamps be allowed to remain permanently undisturbed in their lamp holders.
- b) *Reference Lamps Operated with (Integral) Starter* — The lamps shall be aged with one disposition of contact connections only, and shall be used in the same disposition (see A-6).
- c) *Reference Lamps Operated Without Starter* — The above conditions shall be complied with so far as the identification of the ballast terminations corresponding to the main circuit will permit.

**A-1.4 Reference Lamp Stability**

- a) A lamp shall be brought to a condition of stable operation before carrying out measurements. No swirling shall be present.
- b) The characteristics of a lamp shall be checked immediately before and immediately after each series of tests.

**A-1.5** Reference ballasts and reference lamps shall comply with Annex C and Annex D respectively.

**A-2 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR TESTING REFERENCE BALLASTS**

**A-2.1 General**

The measurements shall not be made on the reference ballast until steady temperature conditions are reached.

**A-2.2 Measurement of Ratio Voltage/Current**

Figure 1 gives a typical testing circuit. If this circuit is used, no correction need be made for the current drawn by the voltmeter, provided that the resistance of the voltmeter complies with the requirements of Annex H of IS 15885 (Part 1).

If the frequency is not exactly the rated value  $f_n$ , a correction to the measured voltage shall be applied in accordance with the following equation:

$$\text{Voltage at } f_n = \text{voltage at frequency } f \times \frac{f_n}{f}$$

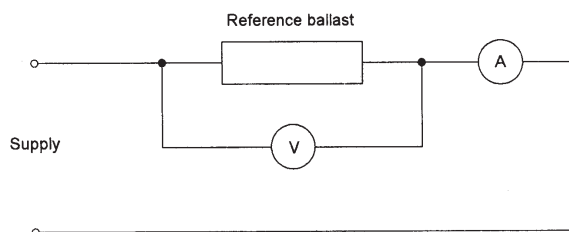


FIG. 1 CIRCUIT FOR MEASUREMENT OF VOLTAGE/ CURRENT RATIO

**A-2.3 Measurement of Power-Factor**

Figure 2 gives a typical circuit for the determination of the power-factor.

A suitable correction shall be made for instrument losses.

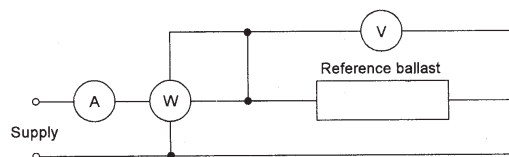


FIG. 2 CIRCUIT FOR MEASUREMENT OF POWER FACTOR

**A-2.4 Measurement of Magnetic Screening**

The steel plate referred to in C-2.2 shall have dimensions at least 25 mm greater than the corresponding projection of the enclosure and shall be placed in geometric symmetry to each surface as tested.

**A-3 SELECTION OF REFERENCE LAMPS**

**A-3.1** Lamps operated with a starter and lamps operated without a starter where the method of measuring lamp electrical and luminous characteristics without a separate cathode heating has been indicated:

Figure 3 gives a recommended circuit for selecting reference lamps.

After the lamp has started, the starting device is taken out of the circuit.

This does not apply to lamps with integral means of starting.

When stable operating conditions are reached, the current, voltage and power of the lamp are measured for compliance with Annex D.



When measuring the voltage or power of the lamp, the potential circuit of the instrument not in use is open.

When measuring the lamp wattages, no corrections shall be made for the wattmeter dissipation (the common connection being made on the lamp side of the current coil).

If any doubts are felt on this point, it will always be possible to evaluate the compensation error by repeating the measurements with other values of the load in parallel with the lamp. This is done by adding resistances in parallel and reading, each time, the power measured by the wattmeter. It is then possible to extrapolate the results obtained in order to determine the true wattage in the absence of any parallel load.

NOTE — The reference to the absence of a correction for the consumption of the voltage circuit of the wattmeter arises from the fact that, in most cases, at the same supply voltage, the said load compensates approximately for the reduction of the power consumption of the lamp caused by the parallel connection of the voltage circuit of the wattmeter.

**A-3.2** Lamps operated without a starter where the method of measuring lamp electrical and luminous characteristics with separate cathode heating has been indicated:

#### A-3.2.1 Circuit

The circuit used is shown in Fig. 4. It differs from the circuit shown in Fig. 3 by the omission of the starter

and the addition of low-voltage transformers provided to heat the lamp cathodes. The primary voltage of these transformers needs to be adjustable in order that the desired output voltage may be obtained. The cathode transformers shall be so connected that their voltages subtract from the voltage of the ballast circuit.

Supply voltage A is the voltage normally specified for a reference ballast circuit for the type of lamp being measured.

Supply voltage B may come from the same power source, but shall have separate voltage control so that it can be adjusted independently of A. The voltage sources A and B should preferably come from the same supply and shall not come from different phases of a polyphase power supply.

The two cathode heating transformers (or one transformer with two secondary windings) should be of high quality, have satisfactory regulation, and have a current capacity several times the actual current required. They should also have low losses to minimise the effect that any error in the measurement of these losses would have on the total lamp watts.

The centre value of cathode voltage is 3.6 V for low-resistance cathode lamps.

NOTE — A transformer having a short-circuit apparent power of 50 VA minimum per secondary winding at the required voltage of 3.6 V would meet these requirements.

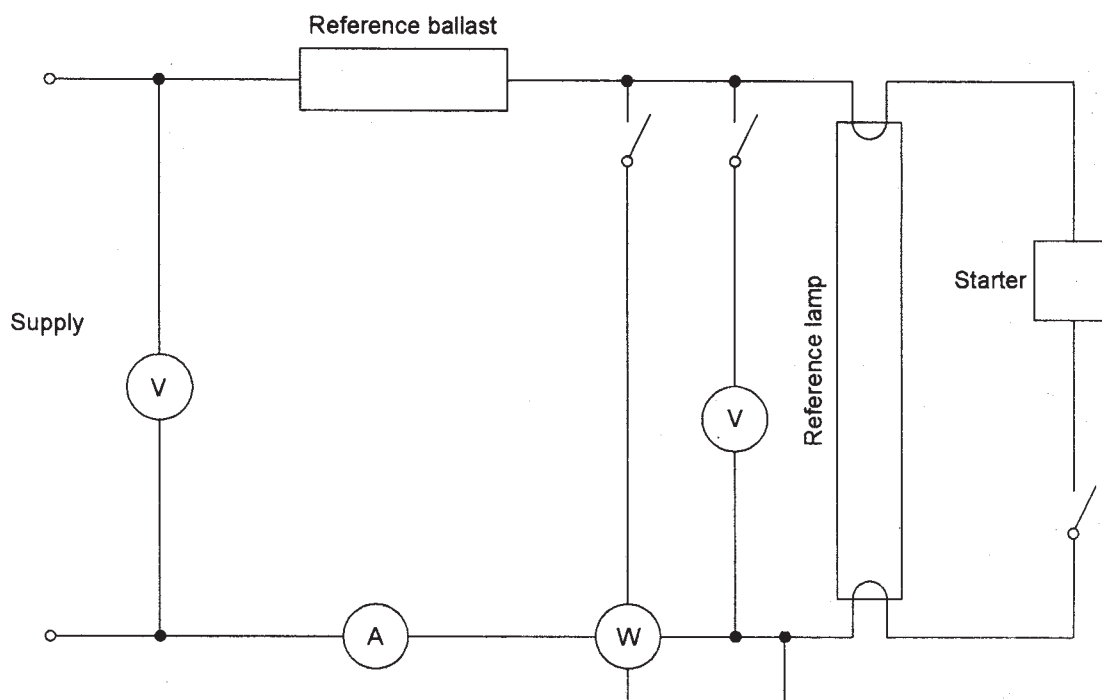
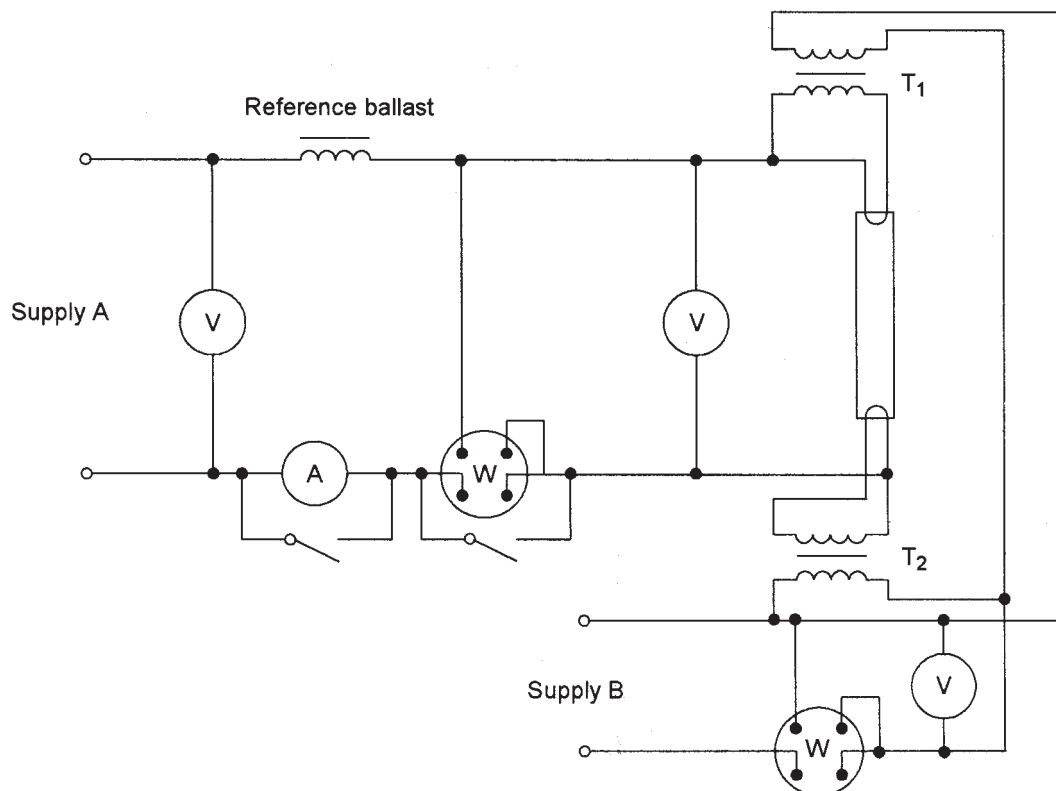


FIG. 3 CIRCUIT FOR SELECTION OF REFERENCE LAMPS (WITHOUT SEPARATE CATHODE HEATING)



NOTE — Independent supplies are permitted to transformers  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  provided the delivered voltages have the same phase.

FIG. 4 CIRCUIT FOR SELECTION OF REFERENCE LAMPS (WITH SEPARATE CATHODE HEATING)

### A-3.2.2 Calibration

Each cathode transformer (or pair of transformers) shall be individually calibrated to determine the power loss that will exist during normal operation.

This power loss will vary with the current to be supplied to the particular type of cathode involved. These loss values need to be determined only once for a given transformer for each cathode type. The appropriate transformer loss can then be applied to the measurements of the various types of lamps.

It is convenient to obtain a voltage calibration on each transformer, this involves determining the primary voltage that should be set in order to obtain the required secondary output voltage. This calibration, although not entirely essential, makes it possible to use primary voltage settings in all routine work, thus avoiding the need for constant use of the more fragile low-range thermocouple voltmeters.

The circuit used in making the calibration is shown in Fig. 5. Each secondary winding should be connected to a substitution resistor having the electrical characteristics specified for the particular cathode type involved. The primary voltage should be adjusted so that the average of

the two secondary voltages is 3.6 V and the value of the primary voltage should then be recorded. It is essential that this calibration be repeated for any other cathode types with which the transformer is to be used.

The power loss in the transformer (core loss and Joule effect considered together) shall also be determined for each load condition. The measurement of the loss shall be made by use of the circuit in Fig. 5. With the primary voltage again set so as to give the specified voltage (3.6 V) across the substitution resistors, the power shall be read.

The loss in the transformer may then be calculated as the wattage input reading minus the instrument corrections (for the two potential circuits) and also minus the power dissipated by the substitution resistors.

This power in the resistors can be calculated as  $E_2/R$  for each of the windings. Since the total wattage to be read is likely to be in the range of 5 W to 10 W, a low-range wattmeter is essential.

The transformer loss is assumed to be constant for all lamps having a given size of cathode, and no allowance is made for slight differences resulting from variations in actual cathodes.

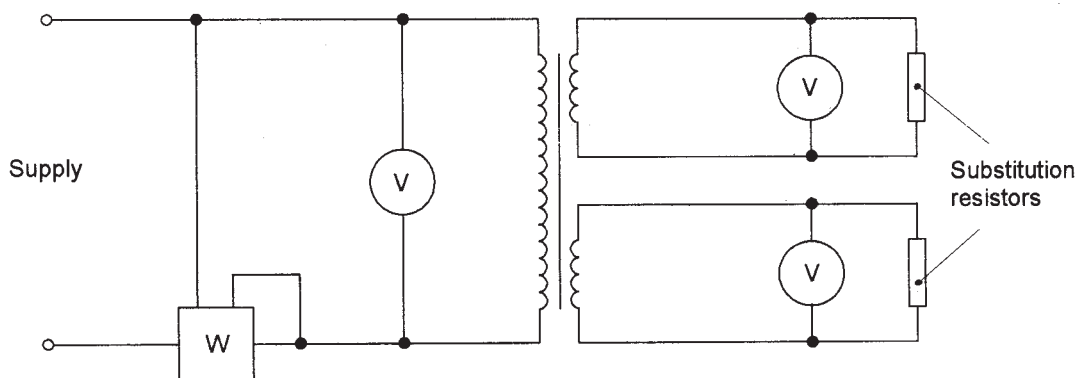


FIG. 5 CIRCUIT FOR CALIBRATION OF CATHODE TRANSFORMERS

### A-3.2.3 Measurement

When stable operating conditions have been reached, the lamp power, voltage and current shall be measured to determine whether or not the lamp complies with the requirements of Annex D.

The lamp power shall be considered to be the sum of the power delivered through the reference ballast (as measured in the conventional portion of the circuit) and the power used to heat the cathodes (measured on the input side of the cathode heating transformers using the corrections described in A-3.2.2).

When measuring the voltage or power of the lamp, the potential circuit of the instrument not in use shall be open.

When measuring the power in the arc circuit of the lamp, no correction shall be made for the wattmeter dissipation (the common connection being made on the lamp side of the current coil). The note given in A-3.1 about the absence of a correction for the power consumption of the wattmeter voltage circuit also applies to this circuit.

## A-4 MEASUREMENT OF OPEN-CIRCUIT VOLTAGE

### A-4.1 Lamps Operated With Starter

For the measurement of the open-circuit voltage at starter terminations, the lamp cathodes shall be replaced by a resistor having the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

### A-4.2 Lamps Operated Without Starter

For the measurement of the open-circuit voltage at the terminals of the lamp, each cathode shall be replaced by a resistor of the objective value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

The appropriate value of the voltage is the highest of the four possible measurements.

### A-4.3 Lamps with Integral Means of Starting

For the measurement of the open-circuit voltage at the terminals of the lamp, the lamp cathodes shall be replaced by a resistor having the value given in IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

## A-5 MEASUREMENTS OF PRE-HEATING CONDITIONS

### A-5.1 Lamps Operated with (Integral) Starter

For the measurement of the pre-heating current, the two lamp cathodes shall be replaced by a resistor having the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

### A-5.2 Lamps Operated Without Starter

For the measurement of the pre-heating current, the value of the dummy resistor shall take into account the internal resistance of the voltmeters.

## A-6 MEASUREMENT OF LAMP POWER AND CURRENT

### A-6.1 Lamps Operated with (Integral) Starter

Figure 6 gives an example of a suitable testing circuit. Measurements are made with the starting device taken out of circuit.

This does not apply to lamps with integral means of starting.

In the lamp circuit, potential circuits shall not be connected across the pins or contacts used for the starter.

When measuring the voltage or power of the lamp, the potential circuit of the instrument not in use is open.

When measuring lamp wattages, no correction shall be made for the wattmeter dissipation (the common connection being made on the lamp side of the current coil).

To reduce the new stabilization period of the lamp after transferring from one ballast circuit to another, a quick-switching technique should be adopted. During the switching, the connections of the individual pins or contacts to the same reference lamp shall not be changed.

If any doubts are felt on this point, it will always be possible to evaluate the compensation error by repeating the measurement with other values of the load in parallel with the lamp. This is done by adding resistances in parallel and reading, each time, the power measured by the wattmeter. It is then possible to extrapolate the results obtained in order to determine the true wattage in the absence of any parallel load.

NOTE — The reference to the absence of a correction for the dissipation of the voltage of the wattmeter arises from the fact that, in most cases, at the same supply voltage, the load compensates approximately for the reduction of the power dissipation of the lamp caused by the parallel connection of the voltage circuit of the wattmeter.

**A-6.2 Lamps Operated Without Starter**

Figure 7 gives an example of a suitable test circuit. It consists essentially of the following:

- a) A changeover switch, preferably quick-acting, allowing the reference lamp to be connected

either to the reference ballast or the ballast under test. Where the method of measuring lamp electrical and luminous characteristics without separate cathode heating has been indicated, the reference ballast circuit shown in Fig. 3 should be used. Where the method of measuring lamp electrical and luminous characteristics with separate cathode heating has been indicated, the reference ballast circuit shown in Fig. 4 should be used.

- b) A means of measuring the current supply to the lamp.

NOTE — Figure 7 illustrates the method of measurement for lamp current: at the upper cathode, by an ammeter with two windings; at the lower cathode by a current transformer.

Since in the general case of circuits for operation without starter none of the accessible conductors carries the actual lamp current to be measured, special methods are required.

Two methods of measurement for this purpose are shown in Fig. 7; other methods giving the same results are acceptable.

One method of test uses an ammeter with two windings indicating the sum of the two currents in the windings. The windings are inserted in the conductors connected to the same cathode (see the top of Fig. 7).

To compensate for the disturbance caused by

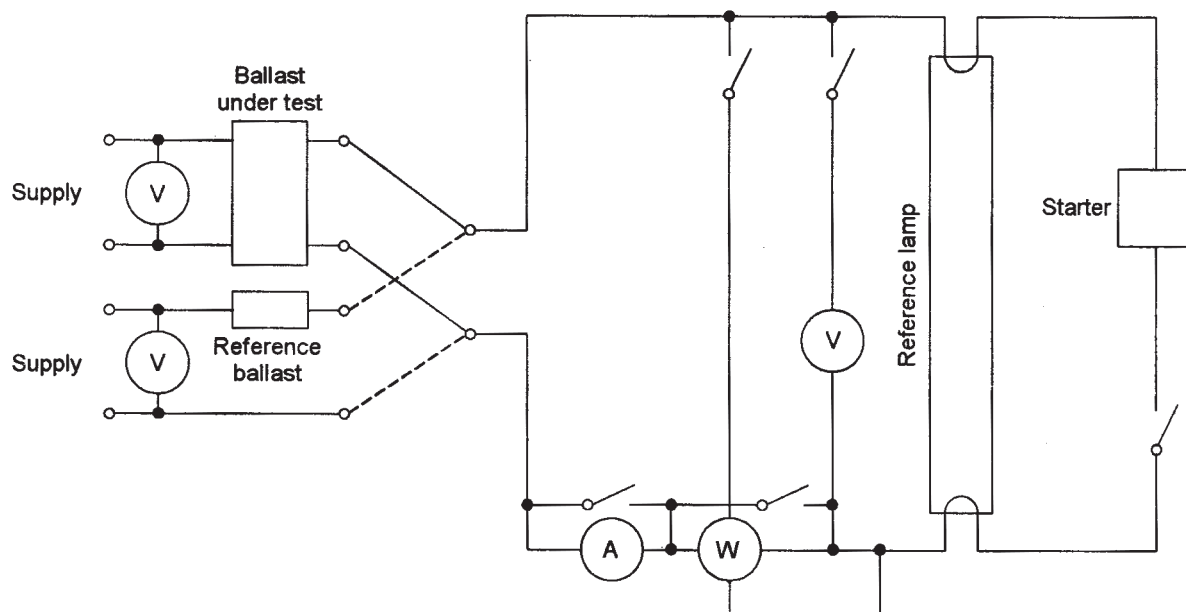


FIG. 6 MEASUREMENT OF POWER AND CURRENT OUTPUT (LAMPS WITH STARTER)

the insertion of the instrument in a parallel heating circuit, a second measurement is taken after inserting in each conductor an additional resistance equal to that of the corresponding circuit of the ammeter.

Let  $I_1$  and  $I_2$  be the two successive readings of the current measured, then the true value of the lamp current in normal operation is given by the following:

$$I = I_1 + (I_1 - I_2)$$

If the conditions of Annex H of IS 15885 (Part 1) are complied with.

Another method of test using a current transformer is as follows:

The combination of two conductors leading to one lamp cathode is wound with a given number of turns round the core of a suitable instrument-type current transformer.

A suitable current measuring arrangement (for example, a thermocouple connected to a millivoltmeter) is connected to the secondary terminals of this transformer.

This combination provides a means of measuring the resulting current flowing in the two conductors. It is calibrated in advance by connecting it with a lamp in a circuit where the current flowing in the latter can be

measured by ordinary procedure (for example, in the circuit of the reference ballast).

NOTE — By using a current transformer, the reflected impedance in the lamp circuit of the measuring arrangement can easily be made negligible, for example, a few hundredths of an ohm.

The impedance with respect to the heating circuit of the cathode is simply the series resistance of both wires wound around the core and it may also easily be reduced to the same order of magnitude.

If, however, one of these impedances is not negligible, it should always comply with the requirements of Annex H in IS 15885 (Part 1) and its influence on the measurement could be determined by using a method similar to that described above for the ammeter with two windings.

- c) A means of measuring photometrically a proportionate indication of the luminous flux of the lamp.

It is not necessary for this purpose to place the lamp in a photometric integrator. It is sufficient to place a photo-receptor at a given distance from the lamp and directed at the central portion, provided that suitable precautions are taken to shield the photo-receptor from other radiation and to prevent any relative movement of the lamp and the photo-receptor throughout the tests.

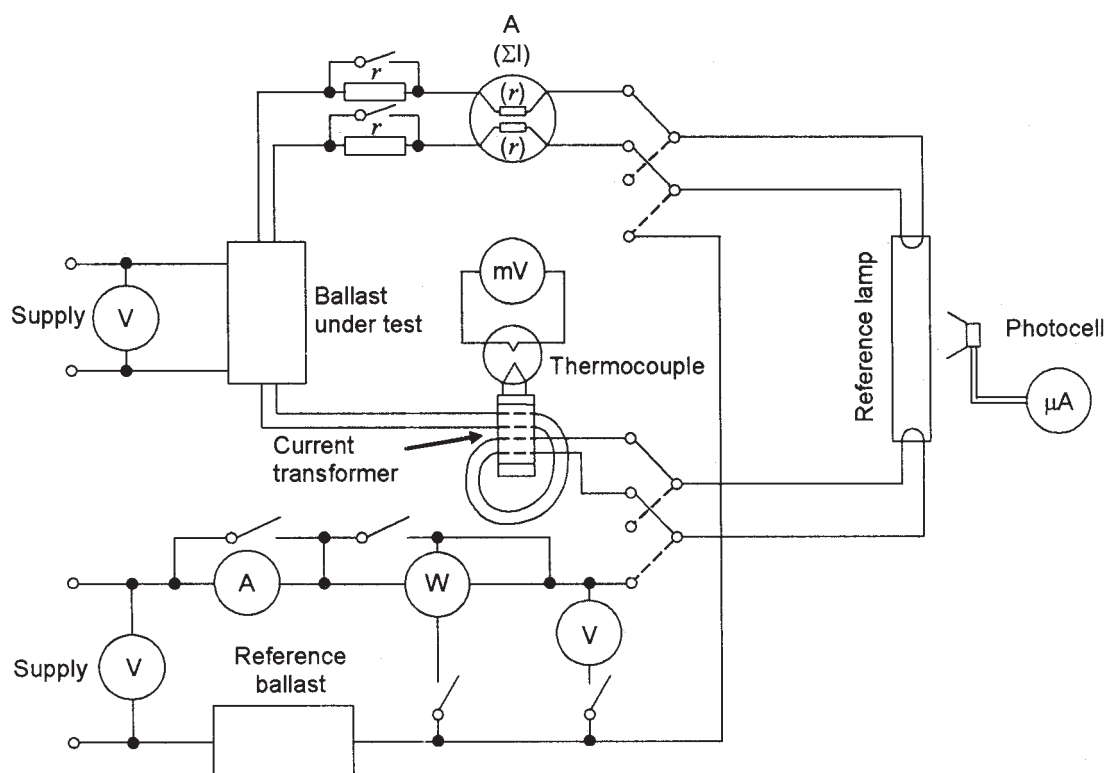


FIG. 7 MEASUREMENT OF POWER AND CURRENT OUTPUT (LAMPS WITHOUT STARTER)

Two photometric readings shall be taken, one with the lamp connected to the reference ballast circuit and one with the lamp connected to the ballast under test.

**A-7 MEASUREMENT OF MAXIMUM CURRENT IN ANY LEAD TO A CATHODE**

The circuit used is shown in Fig. 8.

The circuit is chosen in order to provide for normal operation of the ballast, while making the test independent of the position of the hot spot on the cathode.

The dummy cathode resistances shall have the objective values specified in IS 2418 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

To ensure normal working conditions for the ballast, the reference lamp cathodes are heated by independent circuits at a voltage corresponding to the voltage which would be supplied to the cathodes by the ballast under test, at the test voltage.

To compensate for the disturbance caused by insertion of the ammeter the measurements are repeated after the insertion of a supplementary resistance ( $r$ ) of value equal to that of the ammeter, and the results corrected as indicated in A-6.

With the same position of the lamp, measurements are made for the four conductors 1, 2, 3 and 4.

**A-8 MEASUREMENT OF CURRENT WAVEFORM (see Fig. 9)**

**A-8.1 For Lamps Operated with Starter**

The peak value of the lamp current is determined by means of a calibrated oscilloscope and the resistor  $R_2$  inserted in the earthed side of the circuit.

The capacitor commonly included across the starter switch is replaced by a capacitor  $C$  of which the value is 0.01  $\mu\text{F}$ .

Care shall be taken to ensure a sufficiently low impedance of the supply for the different frequencies involved. Moreover the supply voltage distortion of maximum 3 percent [see H-2.3 of IS 15885 (Part 1)] shall be taken into account when evaluating test results.

In case of doubt a distortion-free supply shall be used.

**A-8.2 For Lamps Operated Without Starter**

Measurements relating to the supply current may be made as in A-8.1.

For measurements relating to the lamp current, the measuring arrangement using a current transformer, described in A-6 is also suitable for determination of the waveform or peak value of the current supplied to the lamp.

A resistor is connected across the secondary winding

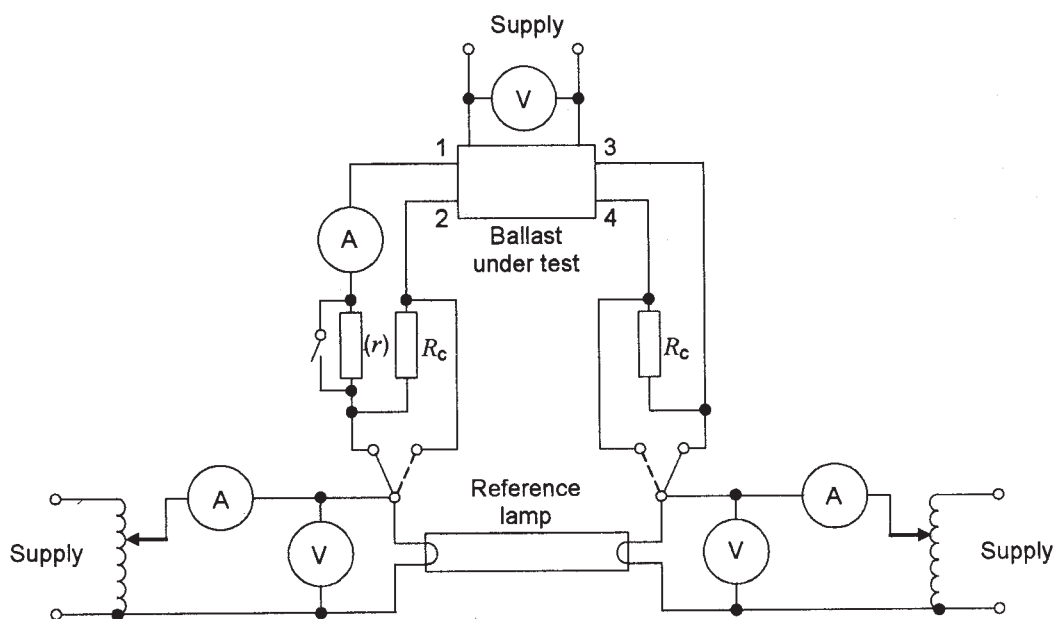


FIG. 8 MEASUREMENT OF MAXIMUM CURRENT IN ANY LEAD TO A CATHODE

of the current-transformer or, if purely resistive (for example, thermocouple), the current measuring device used in A-6 may also serve for this purpose. This resistor is then equivalent to resistor  $R_2$  in Fig. 9 and has the measuring instrument connected directly across it. As its value should be kept low, the insertion of an amplifier before the cathode ray oscilloscope may be necessary.

The calibration of the complete arrangement (current transformer, resistor, and oscilloscope) as well as the absence of distortion shall be checked by connecting it with the lamps in a circuit in which the lamp current can be examined directly. Results with the current transformer in this circuit are then compared with direct measurement in the same circuit.

With regard to the reflected impedance of the measuring arrangement using a current transformer in the lamp circuit, reference should be made to the note at the end of A-6.2 (b). The distortion-free condition is moreover limiting the permissible value of the resistor loading for the transformer and accordingly this reflected impedance will normally be kept very low. It shall in any case comply with the requirements of Annex H of IS 15885 (Part 1).

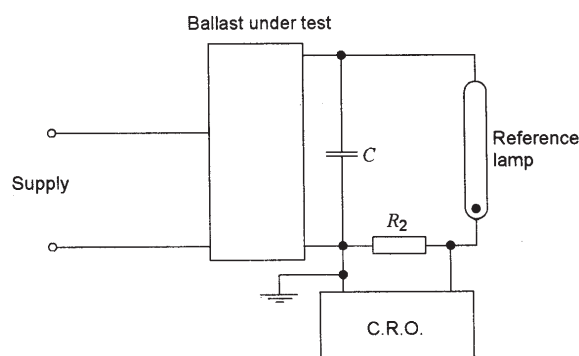


FIG. 9 MEASUREMENT OF CURRENT WAVEFORM

### A-9 MEASUREMENT OF IMPEDANCE AT AUDIO-FREQUENCIES

Figures 10 and 11 indicate alternative test circuits (methods A and B).

The circuit of Fig. 11 is easier to provide and shall be used when there is no doubt about the inductive character of the impedance. If this is not the case, the circuit shown in Fig. 10 shall be used.

The circuit of Fig. 10 illustrates a complete bridge

which permits a full determination of the audio-frequency impedance  $Z$  of the lamp/ballast assembly that is not only its absolute value (modulus) but its variation as well.

Let  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  represent the values of the resistors shown in the circuit diagram by the values of  $5 \Omega$  and  $200\,000 \Omega$  respectively (the latter at least not being critical). When by adjustments of  $R$  and  $C$  a balance is obtained for a given audio frequency selected on the wave-analyser (or any other suitable selective detector), we have, in general:

$$Z = R_1 R_2 \left( \frac{1}{R} + j \omega C \right)$$

If the resistors  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  have precisely the indicated values, the equation becomes:

$$Z = 10^6 \left( \frac{1}{R} + j \omega C \right)$$

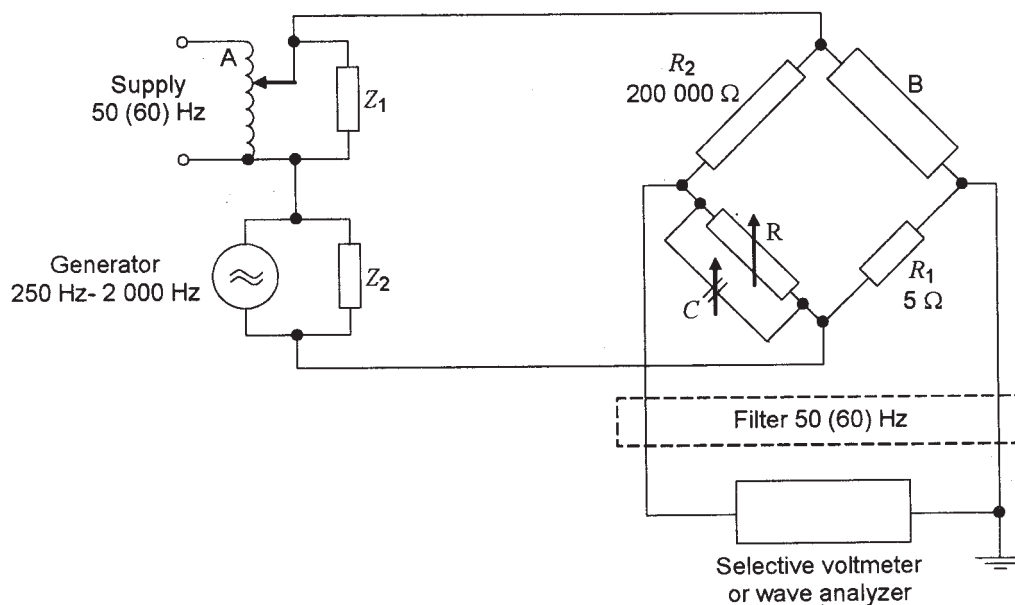
In the case of the circuit in Fig. 11, the two audio-frequency voltages:  $V_B$  at the terminals of the lamp-ballast assembly and  $V_R$  at the terminals of resistor  $R$  are measured by means of a wave-analyser at a constant audio frequency, with the help of a switch. Audio-frequency impedance  $Z$  of the lamp-ballast assembly at the frequency chosen for the measurement is found by the equation:

$$Z = R \frac{V_B}{V_R}$$

For both circuits:

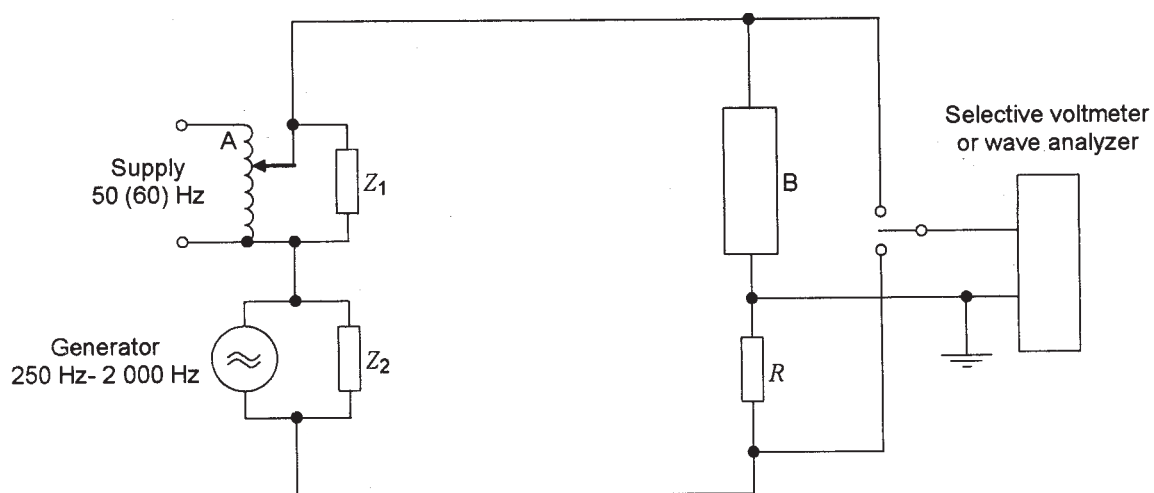
- A = supply transformer 50 (60) Hz,
- B = lamp-ballast assembly under test,
- $Z_1$  = impedance of value sufficiently high for 50 (60) Hz and sufficiently low for 250 Hz to 2 000 Hz (for example resistance  $15 \Omega$  + capacitance  $16 \mu\text{F}$ ), and
- $Z_2$  = impedance of value sufficiently low for 50 (60) Hz and sufficiently high for 250 Hz to 2 000 Hz (for example inductance 20 mH).

NOTE — The impedance  $Z_1$  and/or  $Z_2$  are not necessary if the corresponding source has a low internal impedance for the currents of the other.



NOTE — The value of 200 000  $\Omega$  for one branch of the bridge is not critical.

FIG. 10 MEASUREMENT OF IMPEDANCE AT AUDIO-FREQUENCIES — METHOD A



NOTE — The resistor  $R$  shall meet the requirements of H-7.2 of IS 15885 (Part 1). A suitable value is 5  $\Omega$ .

FIG. 11 MEASUREMENT OF IMPEDANCE AT AUDIO FREQUENCIES — METHOD B



## ANNEX B

(Clause 8.1)

### SERIES OPERATION OF TWO FLUORESCENT LAMPS

**B-1** This Annex gives a summary of ballasts suitable for series operation (*see* Table 1) of two fluorescent lamps and which do not need further testing as required

by **8.1** of this standard.

It applies to simple choke ballasts on 220 V–250 V supplies for lamps operated with starter.

**Table 1 Ballasts Suitable for Series Operation of Tubular Fluorescent Lamps**

SI No.	Lamps		Ballasts for Lamps According to Data Sheet	
	Type (2)	Data Sheet (3)	(4)	(5)
i)	2 × 7 W	xxxxx-IS-0007 <sup>1)</sup>	11 W	xxxxx-IS-0011 <sup>1)</sup>
ii)	2 × 9 W	xxxxx-IS-0009 <sup>1)</sup>		
iii)	2 × 15 W, T8	Under consideration	30 W, T8	Under consideration
iv)	2 × 18 W	2418-1105-1	40 W	24186-1310
v)	2 × 20 W	2418-1110		

<sup>1)</sup> See IS 15687 (Part 2).

## ANNEX C

(Clauses A-1.5 and A-2.4)

### REFERENCE BALLASTS

#### C-1 MARKING

The reference ballast shall be provided with durable and legible marking as follows:

- a) Words 'reference ballast' in full;
- b) Mark of origin; this may take the form of a trade-mark, the manufacturer's name, or the name of the responsible vendor;
- c) Serial number;
- d) Rated lamp wattage or lamp designation and calibration current; and
- e) Rated supply voltage and frequency.

#### C-2 DESIGN CHARACTERISTICS

##### C-2.1 General Design

A reference ballast is a self-inductive coil, with or without an additional resistor, designed to give the operating characteristics of **C-3**.

It may be used in a circuit employing a starter or, where applicable, in a circuit including separate power sources to heat the lamp cathodes.

For those types of lamps for starterless circuit where two alternative methods of measurement of electrical and luminous characteristics are specified on the relevant lamp data sheet of IS 2418 (Part 1), the manufacturer shall state the method to be used.

##### C-2.2 Protection

The ballast shall be protected, for example by means of a suitable steel case, against magnetic influence, in such a way that its ratio of voltage to current for the calibration current shall not be changed by more than 0.2 percent when a 12.5 mm thick plate of ordinary mild steel is placed at 25 mm from any face of the ballast enclosure.

Moreover, the ballast shall be protected against mechanical damage.

#### C-3 OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS

Tests shall be carried out in accordance with **A-2**.

##### C-3.1 Rated Supply Voltage and Frequency

The rated supply voltage and frequency of reference ballast shall be in accordance with the values given in

## IS 15968 : 2013

IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet.

### C-3.2 Ratio Voltage/Current

The ratio of voltage to current of a reference ballast shall have the value given in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet, subject to the following tolerances:

- a)  $\pm 0.5$  percent at the calibration current value; and
- b)  $\pm 3$  percent at any other value of current from 50 percent to 115 percent of the calibration current.

### C-3.3 Power-Factor

The power-factor of the reference ballast determined at the calibration current shall be as shown in IS 2418 (Part 2) or IS 15687 (Part 2) on the relevant lamp data sheet, subject to a tolerance of  $\pm 0.005$ .

### C-3.4 Temperature Rise

When the reference ballast is operated in an ambient air temperature of between 20°C and 27°C, at its calibration current and rated frequency, and after thermal stabilisation, the temperature rise of the ballast winding shall not exceed 25 K, when measured by the change in resistance method.

## ANNEX D

(Clauses A-1.5, A-3.1 and A-3.2.3)

### REFERENCE LAMPS

**D-1** A lamp which has been aged for at least 100 h is considered to be a reference lamp if, when associated with a reference ballast under the conditions as defined in Annex A and operating in an ambient temperature 25°C unless otherwise specified on the relevant lamp data sheet, the lamp wattage, voltage at lamp terminals or lamp running current do not deviate by more than 2.5 percent from the corresponding objective or nominal values, as appropriate, given in IS 2418 (Part 2).

In those cases where lamps are measured in the circuit that provides separate cathode heating (*see A-3.2*) it is the arc wattage and not the total wattage that should be within 2.5 percent of the corresponding value given in IS 2418 (Part 2).

For lamps operated without starter, it is also required

that the resistance of the cathodes shall not differ from the objective values for the type of lamp by more than 10 percent. If the resistance is higher, it may be reduced by using a shunt resistor.

A reference lamp of a type suitable for the ballast under test shall always be used.

The waveform of the current passed by a stabilized lamp associated with a reference ballast shall show substantially the same waveform in successive half-cycles.

#### NOTES

**1** This limits the possible generation of even harmonics by a rectifying effect.

**2** For the procedure to be used for the selection of reference lamps, *see A-3*.

(Continued from second cover)

- b) Magnetic screening;
- c) Impedance at audio-frequencies; and
- d) Safety requirements covered in a separate standard.

After the publication of this standard, IS 1534 (Part 1) : 1977 shall be withdrawn.

This standard is based on IEC 60921 : 2006 'Ballasts for tubular fluorescent lamps — Performance requirements', issued by the International Electrotechnical Commission except that ballast power losses have been included.

For the purpose of deciding whether a particular requirement of this standard is complied with, the final value, observed or calculated expressing the result of a test or analysis, shall be rounded off in accordance with IS 2 : 1960 'Rules for rounding off numerical values (*revised*)'. The number of significant places retained in the rounded off value should be the same as that of the specified value in this standard.

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This Indian Standard has been developed from Doc No.: ETD 23 (5943).

## Amendments Issued Since Publication

Amend No.	Date of Issue	Text Affected

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